

Sacred rganizing Coalition

Date: February 6, 2025

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Subject: Support HB 3170, Resilience Hubs and Networks

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Bobby Levy, and Members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment:

My name is Sarah Loose, and I write on behalf of the Sacred Organizing Coalition. The organizations and initiatives in our coalition share a commitment to organizing the hundreds of community-based teams and faith communities we work with - and the thousands of everyday Oregonians across the state that are a part of these local groups - to move us toward the horizon of an Oregon where *all* belong.

Belonging, for us, means co-creating communities and systems where all life can flourish and no one is left behind—in the height of a disaster as well as during blue sky times. Resilience Hubs and Networks help ensure that all communities—particularly those that are most vulnerable during extreme weather events and wildfires—have access to the resources and networks they need to survive and thrive. This is why, as part of our Coalition’s 2025 Belonging Agenda, our base selected and we are supporting HB 3170 as one of our priorities for this legislative session.

The faith communities and groups that are part of our Coalition know in our bones that neighbors caring for neighbors is the bedrock of community resilience. Indeed, this is what we do and have done well before “resilience” became part of the popular lexicon. We open the doors of our churches and temples and mosques and gurdwaras and synagogues to shelter people experiencing houselessness and those seeking refuge from the cold, heat, and smoke. We host food pantries and community meals to keep our neighbors fed with healthy food. We provide emotional and spiritual care for people in the midst of crisis and in the long aftermath of recovery. We are trusted sites of belonging, built and maintained by community members who know best what our communities need.

As climate disasters and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and severe, we find ourselves being called upon more often and partnering more closely with our communities’ overstretched emergency personnel and first responders, to keep our communities safe and healthy.

We are committed to continuing to support our communities in preparing for and becoming more resilient in the face of both conventional and unconventional disasters. We urge you to do what you can – including passing HB 3170 – to partner with us in this effort. Continued investment in Resilience Hubs and Networks will help us – and sites like us in areas throughout the state – to better support our communities, through upgraded infrastructure, and supplies, skilled personnel

Our Coalition urges you to support HB 3170 so we can continue building a more resilient Oregon where all communities can thrive and experience belonging, and no one is left behind.

Sincerely,
Sarah K. Loose
Director, Disaster & Climate Resilience Initiative
On behalf of the Sacred Organizing Coalition

The Sacred Organizing Coalition is composed of the Youth Solidarity Movement, Leaven Community Land & Housing Coalition, Liberadora, Disaster & Climate Resilience initiative, Sacred Leadership initiative, and Reckoning with Racism.